

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. By this response, Claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Interview

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to applicant's representative during the interview conducted on March 14, 2006. During the interview, the Examiner stated that the feature of storing thumbnail data in the same file as the image data would overcome the prior art of record. Applicant notes that independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 have been amended to include the recommendation of the Examiner in order to overcome the prior art and place the application in condition for allowance.

Prior Art Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lathrop (U.S. Patent No. 6,288,743) in view of Takemura (JP Patent#11088672). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed with the Examiner in the interview, applicant respectfully submits that neither Lathrop or Takemura teach or suggest where thumbnail data of the image data is stored in a same file as the image data, as recited in claim 1; a storing device that stores the image data and thumbnail data of the image data in a same file in a storage medium, as recited in claim 11; storing, in the storage medium, information with the image data and thumbnail of the image data in a same file, as recited in claim 21; and storing the image data, a thumbnail of the image data and information in a same file in a storage medium, as recited in claim 22.

As discussed in the interview, the above noted feature of independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 is not taught by the combination of Lathrop and Takemura. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-22 are distinguishable over the cited art. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings, (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael R. Cammarata

Registration No.: 39,491

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East, P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant